

## **Sustainable Southampton Committee**

### **May 4, 2010**

Committee Members In Attendance: Tip Brolin (Chair), John Barrows, Scott Carlin, Bob DeLuca, Dorothy Reilly, Ann Reisman, and Ric Stott

Committee Members Not In Attendance: Nancy Graboski, Sheryl Heather, Tony Panza, Paul Rogers, Janice Scherer, Anna Throne-Holst, and Deter Von Lehsten

Also In Attendance: Kate Schertel (Group for the East End), Tom Neely (Director of Transportation, Southampton Town), Kevin McDonald (Chairman, Peconic Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee), and John Valente (Senior Appraisal Systems Analyst, Southampton Town)

Presentation by Kevin McDonald: Kevin McDonald (Chair, Peconic Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee) attended the meeting to make a presentation about RainScapes, a program to reduce storm water pollution. RainScapes would be modeled after a program in Montgomery County, Maryland that offers rebates to homeowners who install plantings on their property that would reduce storm water pollution. Kevin proposed the town offer 50 rebates of \$1,000 each to start using a grant from the EPA, and then re-evaluate the program based on user feedback and storm water mitigation results. The pilot program would be concentrated in Flanders around Reeves Bay. Outreach elements would include a mailing to a targeted group of residents as well as how-to videos on You Tube. Tip agreed that the committee would provide feedback to the Supervisor as soon as possible. Kevin indicated that the EPA could provide \$50,000 in rebates, but the decision would have to be made soon. **Committee members should provide feedback to Tip by next Monday, May 10th.**

Presentation on ICLEI Vehicle Emissions: Ricky Greening, a student intern from Stony Brook Southampton, attended the meeting to present his findings on the town's vehicle emissions. Using logged information for years 2005, 2008 and 2009 (the most complete information provided by the town), he entered data into the ICLEI database. Ricky was able to calculate the average fuel efficiency of town vehicles over time. He found that the low range of fuel efficiency was for heavy trucks (some only 4 mpg) and the high range was for passenger vehicles (18 mpg).

Two major disadvantages of the ICLEI database were that there was no method for recording the make and model of a vehicle and there was also no way of inputting a hybrid or electric vehicle model. Based on his review of the software, Ricky determined that the ICLEI software might not be as helpful as we had hoped to evaluate vehicle efficiency. In terms of municipal facilities, the software may be more helpful. Overall, Ricky concluded that: 1) vehicle usage logs must be kept up to date, 2) a municipal vehicle audit should be completed, 3) vehicle operators should be educated to improve habits, and 4) the town should replace outdated/inefficient vehicles with more efficient ones.

Sustainability Coordinator Hiring Status: Tip reported that the Town Board would interview two candidates for the position of Sustainability Coordinator on the morning of May 13th. The Town Board is expected to make a decision that day regarding whom to hire.

Plan for a Plan: Ann Reisman reported that her subcommittee developed a process for creating a sustainability plan. The system conditions desired would be: 1) to end physical degradation of the environment, 2) conserve natural resources, 3) eliminate harmful man-made substances, and 4) allow humans to meet their basic needs. These conditions would be met through work in the areas of climate action, environment, economy and community. A flow chart was presented to outline a timeline for

setting up community forums on these topics, to increase community and Town Board investment in the process of making our town more sustainable.

There was some discussion regarding the organization of the community forums and it was suggested that certain focal points would be presented to guide the conversation. The forums would ask people what they would like to see Southampton look like in 30-50 years and a facilitator would be in charge of compiling and categorizing these ideas. These ideas would inform the long-term vision for the Town of Southampton. **Ann Reisman asked the committee to review the notes and chart and provide her with feedback by Monday, May 10th.**

Presentation by John Valente: John Valente (Senior Appraisal Systems Analyst, Southampton Town) attended the meeting to talk about a few issues. First, he presented a photo that was created using pictometry, which allows for measurement of structures without physically inspecting them. He presented a chart that showed reduction in carbon footprint and mileage expenses through the use of pictometry. In addition to saving on mileage, assessments are increased through the use of pictometry - additional structures the town did not know about are able to be seen using pictometry, while they may not be seen from the road in many cases. Data collection is 89% accurate from the air and there is 65% accuracy on condition, style, story height and quality of a structure using this method. All of this reduces the cost of assessing properties for tax purposes within the town.

Next, John compared the cost of operating an e-Mini electric car versus other existing town vehicles. He suggested that the town lease an e-Mini and use the sale of a 1997 Ford Taurus (\$3,000) to cover the cost of leasing an e-Mini for one-half a year. Tip Brolin suggested leasing a hybrid car or a diesel car, which would be more cost-effective than an electric car and would convey a more appropriate image to the public with regard to sustainability. John agreed to evaluate a situation where a hybrid would be considered.

In conclusion, John presented the concept for a Southampton Sustainability Research Center that would be housed at the Stony Brook Southampton campus. The Center's mission would be to conduct environmental research, offering environmental policy change and monitoring environmental conditions using GIS and Statistical modeling. The University and Southampton Town would conduct work their in partnership. Funding could initially come from existing Stony Brook sustainability grant resources. Future funding could come from local, state or national environmental/land planning groups. Although the status of the campus remains unknown, John reported that Stony Brook officials have indicated they are still interested in this idea.

New Business: Dorothy Reilly reported that the Stony Brook Southampton intern who is working on educational outreach would like to give a presentation to the committee. **Tip agreed to put her on the agenda for the next meeting.**

As there was no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.